

The photo was accompanied by the headline '**Modern accidents**' and a short recount of what had happened. This is real believe-it-or-not material, and many learning activities could be based on it, including using the short text for a synonym cloze.

We have seen a picture of Isidro Mejia's X-ray and talked about safety with tools and also lucky escapes. Here is the short recount that goes with the picture, but five words have been taken out and replaced by more common words that have a similar meaning. The words taken out are at the bottom of the recount. Work with your partner and see if you can put them back into their right position by matching each with the more common word.

A Los Angeles \_\_\_\_\_ worker who had six nails driven into his head in an  
*building*

accident with a high-powered nail gun is expected to make a full recovery, doctors said.

Isidro Mejia, 39, does not remember much about the accident which left him with nails  
\_\_\_\_\_ in his face, neck and skull.  
*stuck*

Mejia was building a home when he fell from the roof onto a co-worker using the nail gun, police told Associated Press. The two men tried to keep from falling, but both \_\_\_\_\_  
*fell*  
to the ground from the second floor. The gun \_\_\_\_\_  
*went off*

and drove the nails into Mejia's head. Doctors said the nails \_\_\_\_\_ missed his  
*just*  
brain stem and spinal cord, which saved him from paralysis or death.

**discharged      tumbled      barely      construction      embedded**

Once pairs have selected what they think is the correct synonym, the class can come together, share selections, and then read the real recount. It might be that the next step is to find the etymology of the new words, as can be seen in Table 10.